



PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2000

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STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN FLOYD SPENCE H.J. RES. 101 COMMEMORATING THE ARMY'S 225TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to call up this resolution honoring the United States Army on the occasion of its 225th Birthday. On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress resolved to create "the American Continental Army." From that day until the present, millions of Americans have served at home and abroad, in peace and in war, as soldiers in America's Army. It is fitting that we honor the memory of those who have served in our Army by reflecting on its proud traditions and history.

The Army, first and foremost, is this nation's arm of decision. It was the Army that achieved victory at Yorktown, making possible our independence and securing our place in history. From Trenton, Mexico City, Gettysburg, and Santiago, to the Meuse-Argonne and Normandy, from the Pusan Perimeter and the Ia Drang Valley, to Panama and Iraq, the Army has prevailed in thousands of battles, large and small, in defense of this nation and in the cause of liberty. In its 225-year history, tens of thousands of soldiers have sacrificed their lives on distant battlefields so that America could know victory in war, and prosperity in peace.

The history of our Army is inextricably tied with the history of this nation. In war, our Army has been preeminent on the battlefield. In peace, our Army has provided this nation with engineers and explorers, diplomats and presidents. The Washington Monument and the Panama Canal bear concrete witness to the Army's achievements. Lewis and Clark, George W. Goethals, George C. Marshall, as well as Presidents Washington, Jackson, Taylor, Grant, Truman, and Eisenhower, are but a few whose names typify the selfless devotion to duty that is the hallmark of those who have served their Army and their nation with distinction and valor both on and off the battlefield.

Most importantly, the Army has given us soldiers. Since 1775, Americans from every part of this nation have answered the call to arms and served in its Army. In each of this nation's conflicts, soldiers have earned battlefield honors that have made our Army one of the most successful and respected military organizations in history. Their devotion and sacrifice have left an indelible mark on this nation. Victorious in war, these citizen-soldiers then returned home to win and strengthen the peace. I salute them, and thank them for their service.

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As we stand on the edge of the 21st Century and reflect on 225 years of history, one thing is certain. America will call again on its Army and its soldiers during times of crisis. As in the past, I am confident that the Army and its citizen-soldiers will rise to the challenge.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the United States Army and its soldiers on its 225th birthday. I urge the House to join Mr. Skelton and me in strongly supporting this resolution commemorating this significant event.

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